

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brenda Holmes on 9/20/11.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly including a first hinge leaf hingedly connected to a second hinge leaf by a hinge pin, the hinge pin being rotatably mounted in one hinge leaf and non-rotatably mounted in the other hinge leaf, and a check mechanism operably connected to the hinge pin and said one hinge leaf to releasably hold the first and second hinge leaves at at least one angular position about the hinge axis, the check mechanism including a check body which is fixed to the hinge pin and is rotatably located within an annular cam track, the check body including two or more check members which are equally spaced from one another circumferentially about the hinge axis, the check members being resiliently biased in a radial outward direction relative to the hinge axis to engage and run along said cam track, the check body being driven along said annular cam track by relative rotation between said first and second hinge leaves, the cam track including at desired locations therealong one or more check formations which co-operate with said check means to releasably retain the first and second hinge leaves at a desired angular position relative to one another, the cam track being formed on a reaction member which is non-rotatably located in a housing fixedly secured to said one hinge leaf, the reaction member being in the form of an annulus ~~formed from sintered metal, and the housing being formed as a metal pressing.~~

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: applicant has amended the independent claim to include limitations requiring that the check body is fixed to the hinge pin. Applicant further acknowledges the claim sets forth the annular cam track as being non-integrally attached the housing and the hinge leaf.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW SULLIVAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5218. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor D. Batson can be reached on 571-272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3677

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor Batson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/M. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3677